

Remarks

Claims 9-25 are pending in the application. Claims 9-13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of U.S. patent 5,629,980 to *Stefik*. Claims 14-16 were indicated as allowable. Claims 18-25 are added. No new matter is submitted. Continued examination is requested in view of the amendments to the claims.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the telephone interview held August 30, 2002. Agreement was reached that *Stefik* does not teach or suggest a content managing node cooperating with a reconciling node as recited, for example, "receiving ... a second report that originated from a content managing node".

Amendments to the claims were made to redundantly state in the body of the claim what is already stated in the preamble. Of course, a person of ordinary skill in the art would easily recognize that a method "for execution by a reconciling node" (claims 9 and 12) means that every step of the method is performed "at the reconciling node"; and a method "for execution by a first computer system" (claim 17) means that every step of the method is performed "at the first computer system." These amendments to the claims were not made to overcome a rejection and do not change the scope of the claims. Therefore, Applicant asks that in the continued examination the full scope of equivalents be understood for the phrase "reconciling node" (e.g., claims 9 and 12) and "first computer system" (e.g., claim 17).

Conclusion

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS
SHOWING CHANGES MADE

9. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a reconciling node, the method comprising:

- receiving at the reconciling node via a network a first report, the first report being provided in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier;
- receiving at the reconciling node via the network a second report that originated from a content managing node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;
- comparing at the reconciling node the value and the transaction identifier; and
- transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier.

12. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a reconciling node, the method comprising:

- receiving at the reconciling node via a network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;
- receiving at the reconciling node via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;
- identifying at the reconciling node a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values[.];
- comparing at the reconciling node the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report; and
- transmitting at the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the comparison.

17. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a first computer system, the method comprising:

3 receiving at the first computer system via a network a first report, the first report
4 being provided in response to a transaction that transferred via the network the digital work from
5 a second computer system to a third computer system, the first report comprising a transaction
6 identifier;

7 receiving at the first computer system via the network a second report that
8 originated from a fourth computer system, the second report comprising a value and a payee
9 identifier;

10 comparing at the first computer system the value and the transaction identifier;
11 and

12 transmitting from the first computer system onto the network a message enabling
13 a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier.

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